

REMARKS

The Examiner has rejected claims 10 and 17 under 35 USC 112, as based on a disclosure which is not enabling. Computers, databases and network elements are critical or essential to the practice of the invention, but not included in the claims is not enabled by the disclosure. Claim 10 does not indicate any tools to enable said method steps to be performed. Claim 17 does not recite any one structural element.

Applicant has amended the claims accordingly.

The Examiner has rejected claims 4-17 under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite.

As per claims 4-5 and 8, the claim refers to a system while reciting a search engine, which is confusing. Microsoft Computer Dictionary, 4th ed. defines the term "search engine" as "a program that searches for key-words in documents or in a database." The program is a set of computer-readable instructions, and not a structural element.

Applicant has amended claim 1 to further define claim 1 to have a computer database.

As per claim 6, the claim refers to a system while reciting information, which is confusing. Information is not a structural element.

Applicant has amended the claim accordingly.

As per claim 7, the claim refers to a system while reciting information (product specification charts), which is confusing. Information is not a structural element.

Applicant has amended the claim accordingly.

As per claim 9, the claim refers to a system while reciting "online communication between individuals", which is confusing. The "online communication between individuals" appears to be a method step and not a structural element.

Applicant has amended the claim accordingly.

As per claim 10, the claim is confusing because the term "said system" lacks antecedent basis.

Said system does not lack antecedent basis as it is described in the preamble of claim 10.

As per claim 11, the claim refers to a database while reciting a system, which is confusing. The term "system" is commonly understood as an apparatus.

Applicant has amended the claim accordingly.

As per claims 12-16, the claims are rejected as being dependent on independent claim 11.

Claim 11 was amended accordingly.

As per claim 17, the claim refers to a system while reciting information, which is confusing. Information is not a structural element.

Applicant has amended the claim accordingly.

The Examiner has rejected claims 10 and 17 under 35 USC 101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter. The claimed invention is not within the technological arts. The Examiner states that the claims in the present application are completely silent with regard to technology and is purely an abstract idea or process steps that are employed completely without the use of any technology whatsoever. The method claims are no more than a suggested idea of advising regarding energy consumption based on the market energy prices. The claims are completely devoid of any means to carry out a process implementing the step of: entering job characteristics of a user. Furthermore, language as to "wherein said system creating said integral portal system based on said job characteristics" appears to be suggestive, and could be understood as merely a business scheme.

Claim 10 has been amended to state that said job characteristics are entered into a computer database.

Claim 17 has been amended to specify that the system comprises a computer database, and that the computer database comprises MiniPortal(s), MicroPortal(s) and MacroPortal(s). Therefore claims 10 and 17 are not abstract ideas and do use technology. The computer database is the means to carry out the process.

The Examiner states that the claims in the present application do not transform any physical subject matter or tangible matter into a different state of

thing, and can be performed manually by a human being. Claims in the present application do not recite transformation of physical subject matter.

Again the computer database transforms the subject matter.

Further, the claims do not include limitations that would suggest a computer is being used to transform the data from one form to another that would place the invention in the technological arts. Second, disregarding the fact that there is no computer claimed that would physically transform the data, there does not appear to be any physical transformation of data. Thus, there neither appears to be any physical transformation of data from one form to another, which is based upon an algorithm or a calculation by a computer or processor, nor is there any technology claimed that would be used to transform the data.

Again both amended claims 10 and 17 claim a computer database.

As to technological arts recited in the preamble, mere recitation in the preamble (intended or field of use) a network or system, or mere implication of employing a machine or article of manufacture to perform some or all of the recited steps does not confer statutory subject matter to an otherwise abstract idea unless there is positive recitation in the claim as a whole to breathe life and meaning into the preamble.

As to "wherein" clause, it merely states the intended use of the invention, or the result of the limitations in the claim, and adds nothing to the patentability of the claim.

For the reasons stated above, amended claims 10 and 17 are directed to statutory subject matter.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-2, 4-5, 7, 9-13 and 16 as being anticipated by Chipman et al. (US 6,292,894).

Claim 1 of the present invention relates to an integrated portal system which comprises an industry portal and a second portal of a different industry. The system integrates the portals so that a user can view information relating to both portals in a single system. The prior art does not anticipate or make obvious this claim or the claims depending upon it. As stated in the prior art section of the patent application, there are portals on the Internet which relate to a single industry, such as paper, steel or chemicals. That is what is taught by Chipman. When Chipman discusses portals, it relates to several portals in the same industry.

The problem solved by the present invention is to allow a user, like the president of Coca Cola, to be able to view several industries related to his business, such as plastic and aluminum, within a single portal and be able to work within this portal to perform searches and review information. Chipman provides its information on each separate industry in different portals and would not allow the president of coca cola to view the required information within a single portal.

Chipman relates to a system for performing a networked catalog search retrieval and information correlation for a product. A consumer can access the

information and create an end product in a shorter amount of time. A scanning engine scans the computers having accessible pages so as to locate all pages having predefined organizational structure including class, attribute and methods identifiers. The local computer storing the categorized information is defined as a portal. So as to enable each supplier to provide requisite information on its pages, a sector portal establishes common terms for suppliers and consumers to use. Multiple portals may exist for an industry. There is no discussion regarding integration of the portals for different industries.

The Examiner states that Chipman teaches a method and system for retrieving, organizing and utilizing networked data, comprising:

As per claim 1,

an industry related portal (column 4, lines 10-17);

a second portal of a different industry (column 4, lines 10-17);

Column 4 lines 10-17 states "So as to enable each supplier to provide requisite information on its pages, a "sector" portal establishes common terms (class, attribute, and method names) for the suppliers and consumers to use. The sector portal is so named because each industry sector is contemplated to have at least one governing portal from which all other portals in that industry sector derive their common vocabulary, taxonomy, or ontology."

said system integrating said portals so that a user can view information relating to both portals in a single system (column 2, lines 46-54; column 3, lines 51-65).

Col. 2 lines 46-54 states, "The present invention relates to a computer-based information organizing, searching, retrieving, and exchanging platform. Through gathering organized information, a consumer accesses the gathered information to create an end product in a shorter period of time. The present invention uses a predefined common language and format (for example, hypertext markup language (HTML) extended to implement an underlying organizational structure) for organizing information placed on the network of computers."

Col. 3 lines 51-65 states, "As described above, in one embodiment, the cataloged information is stored in a local computer system interfacing between the end user and the information source. For purposes of simplicity, the local computer system as storing categorized information is hereinafter referred to as a "portal" as the portal acts as a primary interface to the organized information residing on the network of computers. When a portal is located on a user's local site, the user has quick access to the variety of information stored at the site. To this end, embodiments of the present invention contemplate the sector portal maintaining a list of complying HTML pages at each supplier's site so that each portal need only retrieve a new list of supplier sites for compliant pages, rather than search the Web as a whole for compliant pages.

The invention relates to a computer-based information organizing, searching, retrieving, and exchanging platform from supplier's within a single industry. None of what is cited to by the section quoted above by the Examiner

describe that Chipman teaches integrating portals of two different industries.

The above describes providing a portal to act as a primary interface in a single industry.

Therefore amended claim 1 is not anticipated nor obvious over Chipman.

As per claim 2, said method and system, wherein said user can order part or services (column 12, lines 40-41).

Chipman states that a user can use its system to calculate prices and delivery time, it does not let a user perform a transaction as required by claim 2.

For this reason and the reasons stated above for claim 1, claim 2 is not anticipated or obvious over Chipman.

As per claims 4-5 and 9, said method and system, further comprising a search engine (column 6, line 63 – column 7, lines 14).

Figure 2 shows a generic portal 201. This section again refers to the real estate industry, a single knowledge base may support the entire industry in a given locality as real estate agents would access a single knowledge base for retrieving residential and commercial listings. In other industries, each company may include its own updateable knowledge base allowing limited access to the public and greater access to employees. This refers to portals for a single industry.

Regarding claim 4, for the reasons stated above for claim 1, claim 4 is not anticipated or obvious over Chipman.

Regarding claim 5, for the reasons stated above for claim 1, claim 5 is not anticipated or obvious over Chipman. Further Chipman only teaches performing a transaction within a single industry and not related industries.

Regarding claim 9, for the reasons stated above for claim 1, claim 9 is not anticipated or obvious over Chipman.

As per claim 7, said method and system, further comprising product specification information (column 9, lines 56-63).

Regarding claim 7, for the reasons stated above for claim 1, claim 7 is not anticipated nor obvious over Chipman.

As per claim 10, said method and system, wherein the integrated portal system is created based on entering job characteristics of a user (column 7, lines 37-56).

This section relates to doing a search for brushless motors. This is not a job characteristic. A job characteristic is a person who is in charge of delivery and logistics for a company. In response the search request, the search engine would scan through a stored index of terms for "brushless" and "motor" and retrieve all matching results.

Amended claim 10 relates to a method for creating an integrated portal system comprising entering job characteristics of a user into a computer database. The system creates the integrated portal system based on the job characteristics of the user. The section cited by the Examiner relates to doing a search to find a subclass of goods. The present invention creates an integrated

portal system based on the job characteristics of the user. For example, as stated above with the president of coca cola, he requires viewing plastic, paper and aluminum portals based on his job characteristics. A person in delivery would view logistical portals. This is not taught by Chipman. Therefore, amended claim 10 is not anticipated or obvious over Chipman.

As per claim 11, said method and system, comprising an industrial database comprising a search engine; said database having product or service specifications, product reports product and a system for answering questions from a user (column 5, lines 59-62; column 6, line 63 – column 7, lines 14; column 10, lines 26-34).

Portal 102 stores some information which may answer some initial questions for user 103 and point to suppliers 104 and 105 for additional information.

Regarding claim 11, Chipman does not teach an industrial database which has a program that answers questions from a user. The database further does not provide independent product reports. The Examiner cites to a section which states that the system provides information that may answer some initial questions from a user, not that the system answers questions from a user. Therefore, claim 11 is not anticipated nor obvious over Chipman.

As per claim 12-13, said method and system, comprising a list of vendors and vendor product information (column 9, lines 36-65).

For the reasons stated above for claim 11, claims 12 and 13 are not anticipated nor obvious over Chipman.

As per claim 16, said method and system, wherein said database provides a price analysis mechanism (column 12, lines 37-38).

For the reasons stated above for claim 11, claim 16 is not anticipated nor obvious over Chipman.

The Examiner has rejected claims 3, 8, 14-15 and 17 as being obvious over Chipman et al.

As per claims 3, 8 and 17, Chipman et al. teach all the limitations of claims 3, 8 and 17, including a governing portal for each industry, and other portals in that industry, except specifically teaching that said portals include a mini portal and macro portal.

However, these differences are only found in the nonfunctional descriptive material and are not functionally involved in the steps recited. The functions performed by said system would be the same regardless of the definition of other portals. Thus, this descriptive material will not distinguish the claimed invention from the prior art in terms of patentability.

Claim 3 requires that the portals contain mini portals and micro portals that are defined in the specification. Mini portals are defined as vertical market portals. Micro portals are defined as specific niches within industries. Chipman

does not teach or describe a breakdown of the portals whatsoever, so that each user seeing a portal sees all portions of the portal. The functions performed by the system for Mini Portals and Micro Portals are not the same regardless of the definition of other portals. Further, for the reasons stated above for claim 1, claim 3 is not obvious over Chipman.

Claim 8 requires that the search engine be able to search the mini and micro portals claimed in the present invention. For the reasons stated above, claim 8 is not obvious over Chipman.

Claim 17 relates to a content management system that is broken up into mini and microportals as described in the specification of the present invention. Chipman does not teach or describe a breakdown of the portals whatsoever, so that each user seeing a portal sees all portions of the portal. Therefore, claim 17 is not obvious over Chipman.

As per claims 14 and 15, Chipman et al. teach all the limitations of claims 14 and 15, except teaching characteristic or usage templates. Chipman does teach that information in a database can be presented in a template form, said information specifying the supplied products and processes (column 10, lines 25-30).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Chipman et al. to include that said template is a characteristic or usage template, because it would advantageously simplify the processing of information.

Claim 14 requires that the database have a characteristic template.

Chipman does not teach this feature or make it obvious. Further for the reasons stated above, claim 14 is not obvious over Chipman. Chipman does not teach this feature nor make it obvious.

Claim 15 requires that the database have a usage template. Chipman does not teach this feature nor make it obvious. Further for the reasons stated above, claim 15 is not obvious over Chipman.

The Examiner has rejected claim 6 as being obvious over Chipman et al. in view of Rangan (US 6,412,073).

As per claim 6, Chipman et al. teach said method and system, including ontology tracking component (column 11, lines 35-37).

Local portal 607 includes at least two distinct systems: a crawler 609 (similar to crawler 205 described above in Fig. 2), and ontology tracking component 608.

Chipman et al. does not specifically teach that the ontology tracking component includes transaction-tracking component.

Rangan teaches a method and system for user-interactive portals accessible via the Internet, wherein a facility is provided for automatically tracking transactions made at various destinations (column 8, lines 20-21).

The invention recognizes the increasing use of the Internet for fiscal transactions, such as purchasing goods and services, a facility is provided in a user's profile to automatically track transactions made at various destinations,

and to authorize payment either on a transaction-by-transaction basis, or after a session, using access to the user's bank accounts, all of which may be pre-programmed and authorized by the user.

It would have been obvious to modify Chipman et al. to include transaction-tracking component, because it would advantageously allow to automate processing of the transactions for the users, as stated in Rangan (Col. 8 lines 19-23).

Chipman describes portal for providing information from suppliers. It does not relate to transactions. Therefore it would not be obvious to combine this reference with Rangan. Therefore, claim 6 is not obvious over Chipman in view of Rangan.

Applicant now believes that the application is in condition for allowance.

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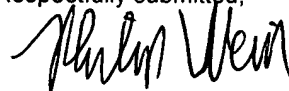
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